MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have taken up the matter with the Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): I know, Sir, you are doing it because. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री एम. वेंकैया नायडु : बाहर गलत message जाएगा। पूरे टीवी चैनल्स में यह न्यूज चल रहा है कि पार्लियामेंट में ऐसा हो गया।

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*... Ceilings are collapsing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Shri Murli Deora's room ceiling collapsed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have taken up this matter. I was there on that day. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The roof here is covered that is why we are safe. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a larger issue we are addressing.

———————

THE BUDGET (GENERAL), 2009-10 - *(contd.)*

श्री साबिर अली (बिहार) : I thank you for giving me an opportunity to discuss the Budget. सर, अपनी बात को शुरू करने से पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं जो भी कहूंगा, सच कहूंगा, सच के सिवा कुछ भी नहीं कहूंगा। मैं ऐसी बातों को कहने जा रहा हूं ...(**व्यवधान**)... नहीं, लोग भाषण भी देते हैं, लेकिन मैं यहां भाषण नहीं देना चाहूंगा। यहां जितने भी लोग बैठे हैं, वे यहां से बाहर जा कर भाषण देते हैं, इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि मैं जो भी कहूंगा, सच कहूंगा, सच के सिवा कुछ भी नहीं कहूंगा।

सर, मैं सिर्फ तीन इश्यूज़ पर बात करूंगा। मैं बिहार से आता हूं और बिहार एक ऐसी स्टेट है, जिसकी सिचुएशन आज यह है कि एक यतीम की तरह है। उसके सिर पर हाथ तो फिराया जाता है, लेकिन उसकी मदद नहीं की जाती है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह मांग करता हूं कि बिहार को विशेष राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाए।

सर, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि जिस वक्त बिहार का बंटवारा हुआ था, उस समय बिहार से झारखंड को अलग नहीं किया गया था बल्कि मामला यह था कि झारखंड से बिहार को अलग कर दिया गया था। आप देखें, बिहार में एक भी ऐसी इंडस्ट्री नहीं है, जो बिहार सरकार को रेविन्यू देती हो। There is not even a single industry. बिहार के नौ करोड़ लोगों को आज किसी तरह का रेविन्यू देने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है, इसलिए बिहार प्रदेश को विशेष राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाना चाहिए। इस सदन में और दूसरे सदन में इसका आश्वासन भी दिया गया है। जिस वक्त बिहार का बंटवारा हुआ, वहां पर जितनी भी फैक्टरीज़ थीं, जितने भी खनन थे, वे सब झारखंड में चले गए। बिहार के हिस्से में सिर्फ वे ज़मीनें आईं, जो एक बार बाढ़ से ग्रसित हो जाती हैं और दूसरी बार सूखे से। वहां के लोग दिन-प्रतिदिन पलायन कर रहे हैं। हिन्दुस्तान का ऐसा कोई भी बड़ा शहर नहीं है, जहां से 20 लाख

और एक करोड़ की आबादी में बिहारी पलायन करके नहीं पहुंचे हों। सर, बिहार इस देश का वह हिस्सा है, जिसकी भारत के अन्य लोगों की तरक्की में बराबर की हिस्सेदारी रही है। इसलिए मैं आपसे मांग करना चाहता हूं कि बिहार को विशेष राज्य का दर्जा दिया जाए।

लोगों ने यहां पर नरेगा के बारे में भी बात की है। मैं भी उस पर बोलना चाहता हूं। हम लोग जमीन से जुड़े हुए लोग हैं। नरेगा में स्थिति यह है कि वहां सिर्फ लूट-खसोट है और ऐसी स्थिति है कि बस खाओ, रात को बत्ती बुझाओ और सो जाओ। नरेगा में 5-10 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा गरीब लोगों तक नहीं पहुंचा जा सकता है। इसके लिए सिर्फ पैसे की जो वृद्धि की गई है, मैं समझता हूं कि उसकी कोई जरूरत नहीं थी। वहां के लिए जो पैसा बढ़ाया गया है, उसे हमारे यहां एजुकेशन पर खर्च होना चाहिए था, हेल्थ पर खर्च होना चाहिए था, साइंस और टेक्नोलॉजी पर खर्च होना चाहिए था, रोड पर खर्च होना चाहिए था, बिजली पर खर्च होना चाहिए था। मैं यह समझता हूं कि उन समस्याओं का ...(**व्यवधान**)...

प्रो. अलका क्षत्रिय : सर, यह जो बता रहे हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : अलका जी ...(**व्यवधान**)... अलका जी ...(**व्यवधान**)... अलका जी ...(**व्यवधान**)...।

श्री साबिर अली : यह आप ही की बात है, इसलिए आप सुनिए। मैं जानता हूं कि आप बोलती हैं, लेकिन आप दूसरों की बात सुनने की भी हिम्मत रखिए। अगर आप सरकार में हैं, तो दूसरे की बात सुनने की हिम्मत भी रखिए। हम आलोचना नहीं कर रहे हैं, हम अपनी सजैशन दे रहे हैं। यहां पर हम सजैशन देने आए हैं। इस सदन में आप ही की तरह हम भी बोलने आए हैं, इसलिए हमें बोलने दीजिए।

सर, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि बजट बहुत अच्छा है। हम भी इस बजट का समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन साथ ही साथ यह कहना चाहते हैं कि जिन चीजों पर ध्यान देना चाहिए था, उन चीजों पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। नरेगा के संबंध में जब तक सिस्टम को ठीक नहीं किया जाएगा, जब तक यह सुनिश्चित नहीं कर लिया जाएगा कि पैसा लोगों के घरों तक पहुंच जाए, उसके लिए पैसे की वृद्धि करने की जरूरत नहीं थी। वही पैसा अगर हिन्दुस्तान की सड़कों और बिजली पर खर्च किया जाए तो आने वाले दस सालों में हमारा देश पूरी दुनिया का शक्तिशाली देश बन सकता है। उसको ऐसा बनाने के लिए हमारे पास ज़हन है, मेहनत करने वाले लोग हैं। आप चाहे यूरोप में चले जाइए, चाहे अमैरिका में चले जाइए, जहां भी देखें हमारे देश के लोग नम्बर वन और नम्बर टू की पोज़ीशन अपनाए हुए हैं। लेकिन सोचने की बात यह है कि वही दिमाग, वही ज़हन और वही जफाकशों यहां काम क्यों नहीं करता? क्योंकि हमारे यहां पर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर नहीं है, हमारे यहां वह सुविधाएं नहीं दी जाती हैं और साथ ही हमारे यहां ब्यूरोक्रेसी हावी है।

सर, बहुत समय नहीं लेकर और बहुत सी चीजों पर नहीं बोल कर, मैं आपसे आग्रह करना चाहता हूं और एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। बीते दस वर्षों में आप देखते हैं कि जो छोटे-छोटे निवेश करने वाले लोग हैं, वे स्टॉक एक्सचेंज में पैसा लगाते हैं, लेकिन हर दो-चार साल में एक बहुत बड़ा घपला होता है। उसका नियंत्रण कौन करता है? केवल एक सेबी कंपनी करती है और वही उसकी देखभाल करती है। उसमें बड़े अफसर जाकर बैठ जाते हैं और ऐसी कंपनियों को भी सूचित कर देते हैं, उसकी लिस्ट में उन्हें इन्क्लूड कर लेते हैं, जिनका कोई बेस नहीं होता,

अपना कोई इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर नहीं होता। ऐसी कंपनियों का शेयर भी एक रुपये से 200 रुपये तक चला जाता है, क्योंकि वहां मैनुपुलेशन किया जाता है, गरीबों का पैसा लूटा जाता है। मंत्री जी को इस पर स्वयं ध्यान देना चाहिए और इसका जवाब देना चाहिए कि सेबी क्या करती है कि ऐसे घोटाले बार-बार हुए हैं। जितने भी घोटाले आज तक हुए हैं, उनकी जांच तक सामने नहीं आई है।

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहता हूं कि इस हिन्दुस्तान में अक्लियतों की जो तादाद है, वह 25 करोड़ से ज्यादा है, लेकिन जो एलोकेशन किया गया है, उसमें उनके लिए सिर्फ 1700 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया है जो उनकी तरक्की के लिए, उनकी फ़लाह के लिए, उनकी बहबूदी के लिए बिल्कुल नाक़ाफी है, इसलिए उस पैसे में बढ़ोत्तरी की जाए। इसी के साथ मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं। एक बार फिर, बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

श्री उपसभापति : आपका धन्यवाद। सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया।

श्री साबिर अली : सर, ...(**व्यवधान**)... एक शेर है श्रद्धापरस्ती की अगर ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, नहीं, ...(**व्यवधान**)... अब आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... यह क्या बात है? ...(**व्यवधान**)... नहीं-नहीं। ...(**व्यवधान**)... साबिर अली साहब, अब आप बैठिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)... यह क्या बात है? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

सुश्री सुशीला तिरिया : हमने तो आपकी बातें सुन लीं, अब हमारी भी तो सुनो।

श्री उपसभापति : तिरिया जी, आप बोलिए।

MS. SUSH1LA TIRIYA (Orissa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2009-10. Sir, I support the General Budget 2009-10. Sir, I congratulate our Finance Minister and our UPA Chairman, Soniaji, and our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, for presenting a balanced Budget, which he has placed through the Finance Minister and I would say, the burden-free Budget, the neutral development Budget, looking at all corners of life, throughout the country, So, Sir, after the new Government is formed, the General Budget 2009-10 has been presented by the Govt. They have taken into account several points, several corners and several spheres. Some Members on the other side have criticised the Budget, but I appreciate and I congratulate them that they are looking after more and more of the rural India. Sir, our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indiraji, had a dream. Our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had a dream. Shrimati Indiraji, while making her last speech in Bhubaneswar, had said, "‡ÃÖ देश का जब तक नौजवान और महिलाएं आगे नहीं आएंगे, तब तक इस देश का विकास नहीं होगा।" यह उनकी आखिरी स्पीच थी। मुझे विश्वास है कि देश की महिलाएं और युवक इस देश को अपने कंधों पर लेकर जरूर आगे ले जाएंगे, आगे बढ़ाएंगे। This was her last speech in Bhubaneswar. So, it is time now to fulfil the dream of our late Prime Minister, Shrimati indiraji. Sir, after going through the Budget and the speech, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for one thing, that is, the National Mission for Female Literacy. Again and again, everybody speaks on that point but, in this Budget, practically, more stress is given on the female education, female literacy. In the General Budget, for both, the Plan and the Non-Plan, an allocation of Rs.10,20,838 crores has been made. But, basically, Sir, I must appreciate him that he has given more stress on women, students and rural development. Sir, I would like to mention about the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh. Since long time, it has been pending, it has been

neglected. Now, he has given Rs.500 crores for Rashtriya Mahila Kosh so that it could function more effectively and SHGs could function more effectively. As for girls' education, a number of schools, colleges and residential schools for SC/ST will be opened up even for the urban poor. Sir, I being the Member of SC/ST and also a woman, I congratulate him for giving priority to girls' education. Then, Sir, in this Budget, stress has been laid on providing loans for study purposes. After passing out matric or higher secondary, for taking admission in some professional colleges, students take loans. Sir, I request the Finance Minister to provide more allocations for study loans, because, nowadays, even the rural youth, after the development of IT section, are trying to go in for higher studies in urban areas. But, economically, they are very poor and if the allocation made for the study loans is enhanced from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs, if it is made according to their profession, their standard, it will be more beneficial for the students.

Sir, I want to make one point on agriculture. In 2007-08, the allocation for agriculture was Rs. 287.00 crores and now in this Budget, it is Rs. 325.00 crores. Sir, the Finance Minister has assured the nation that there will be a growth rate of 4 per cent per annum in agriculture. It is welcome step though there has been criticism in different media, in electronic media and newspapers. In different corners, there has been criticism, but, I believe, if we all look after the interests of the farmers, agriculture and the rural India together, we will definitely be able to achieve this growth rate of four per cent per annum.

Sir, in the Interim Budget, the Finance Minister had announced a training programme for the agricultural farmers. He announced that Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agriculture Research Centre and the Agriculture University of the State will look after the training programme for 1000 farmers and they have appointed 100 trainers for this purpose. The training period will be 7-8 days' programme and they will give training to them as to how more growth can be achieved in the rural areas and at the village level. My sincere plea is, if we do not look after this training programme which has been started for the rural people, how will the Food Security Bill be implemented properly?

Now, I come to the implementation part. There is Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna at the village level.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Sir, it is my last point. The allocation for it in 2006-07 was Rs. 3000 crores and 2007-08, it was Rs. 3983 crores ...(**Time bell**)... But, Sir, in the rural area of my district, not even a single village was taken up for electrification during the last five years under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna. If the implementation is done in this way in the rural villages of our country, how can we achieve our target at the village level in different States? My sincere appeal

through this House to the Finance Minister is that whatever may be the Budget, we should have some implementation agency here also which can look after the implementation part of it at the grass root level so that the hopes and dreams of the Finance Minister and the UPA Government will be fulfilled.

Now, Sir, I come to my last point. ...(**Time-bell**)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Earlier also you mentioned 'this is my last point.' Please conclude.

MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Sir, there are so many new schemes here. One is, Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana for making the urban and rural areas slum-free. I also welcome that. ...(**Time-bell**)... My point here is, before making the rural areas slum-free, first, we have to take steps to make the urban areas slum-free. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam): Sir, I rise here to represent the North-East. Sir, as far as the North-Eastern Region is concerned, the required growth rate of GDP at 2006-07 prices in terms of percentage was equivalent to the national average growth rate of GDP, at 9 per cent; during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, it should have been 10 per cent; during the 12 Five Year Plan, it was 13.67 per cent: during the 13th Five Year Plan, 16,37 per cent; the required growth rate is 12.99 per cent per annum; the required additional investment is Rs. 13,29,891 crores. This has been given in the Vision 2020 document which has been released by the hon. Prime Minister on 2nd July, 2008. Now, my question is whether the Budget has reflected the solution of such various long-standing problems of the North-East. Is the Government going to solve the problem of regional imbalances? For N.E. states it has a vision but it has given no solution in its Budget allocations. Sir, this Budget has a deficit of Rs. 4,00,996 crores which is the highest in the last 18 years. In the last Budget, there was a provision of Rs. 106.88 crores for the water resources of the North-eastern Region. This year, in the 2009-10 Budget, it has been decreased by Rs. 16 crores. The Budget has totally ignored the perennial flood problem of Assam. In the last Parliamentary elections it was assured by the Prime Minister that the flood problem of Assam would be solved, considering it to be a national problem; but the Budget is totally silent in this regard. Development of North East needs significant emphasis on creation of investment climate for providing modern infrastructure for improving connectivity both within the Region, with rest of India and the world.

Sir, we are talking about food security and other facilities to the BPL families. Sir, in the North-eastern Region we must stop criminal wastage of resources. You would be astonished to...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, in the North-East Region, in gas flaring, we are burning gases worth about Rs. ten lakhs per day. Sir, we are talking about water resources but 70 per cent of the water of entire India flows through the Brahmaputra river without being put to any use. Sir, we are talking about more production in the agriculture sector.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: In Assam, Barpeta, Darrang and Nagaon districts are known for cultivation of green vegetables. We have no food processing centre in those areas, not even facilities of cold storages. Due to their farmers are earning less than the middlemen who are earning more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mohammad Shafi.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Government look into the matter and give priority to this sector in the North-eastern region?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have called the next speaker.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, this is the last point. The main problem of the common people is that of unprecedented price hike. As prices of essential commodities are increasing, we are seeing an increase in crimes like thefts, dacoities, murders and social disorder. Is this Budget. I want to know whether this Budget has offered any solution to these problems. I want to know whether this Budget will give us any assurance...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. That is all.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: The hon. Finance Minister must enlighten us in this regard. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohammad Shafi. You have only five minutes.

श्री मोहम्मद शफ़ी (जम्मू और कश्मीर) : आली जनाब डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, बजट पर तीन रोज़ा बहस में हिज्बे इक्तिदार, हिज्बे इख्तिलाफ के कई मेम्बरान ने हिस्सा लिया और सेरे हासिल तबसरा हुआ उन स्कीम्स के बारे में, जो स्कीमें जारी थीं या जिनको आगे यह शुरू करने जा रहे हैं। इसमें दो राय नहीं कि बड़े मुश्किल आलमी हालात में, मआशी लिहाज से जो मुश्किल आलमी हालात थे, इसके बावजूद बड़े अच्छे ढंग से मुल्क की मईशत के इंतजाम को संभाले रखा है, इसके लिए हम वजीर-ए-खजाना को मुबारकबाद देते हैं। मुल्क की सतह पर इन पॉलिसियों का जो आपने यहां बजट में एलान फरमाया है, सभी लोग उनकी सराहना करते रहे हैं। होनी भी चाहिए। लेकिन असल मामला तो इन पर अमलआवरी का है और जमीनी सतह पर नताइज दिखाने का है। अगर जमीनी सतह पर नताइज नहीं दिखाये जा सके तो फिर जैसा कि यहां कई लोगों ने बताया, यह पैसा जो गरीब लोगों पर खर्च होना है, देहाती दुनिया के सुधार होने पर खर्च होना है। यह तो फिर एक गुमाश्तों की बड़ी जमात की जेबों में चला जाएगा और गरीब लोगों तक, जिनके लिए ये सारी स्कीमें बनाई गई हैं, यह बात पहुंच नहीं पाएगी। लिहाज़ा, वज़ीर-ए-खज़ाना से मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि वह हर रियासत के चीफ मिनिस्टर के साथ मिलकर इस स्कीम्स की मॉनिटरिंग का, ब्लॉक सतह से लेकर जिला सतह से लेकर रियासती सतह और मुल्क सतह तक एक मैकेनिज्म जारी करें और लगातार उस मैकेनिज्म के ज़रिए इन स्कीम्स की इम्प्लिमेंटेशन मॉनिटर हो, ताकि जो पिलफ्रेज हो रहा है, जो सौदागरी हो रही है, जो गुमाश्तगिरी हो रही है, उस पर रोक हो सके।

यहां नार्थ-ईस्ट की रियासतों के कई मैम्बरान ने अपनी महरुमियों का ज़िक्र किया। खुशकिस्मती से यहां से, हमारे पास ही श्री रंगराजन जी भी तशरीफ रखते हैं। इन्होंने स्पेशल केटेगरी स्टेट्स के बारे में जो रिआयात दी जाती रही थीं और जिन रिआयतों से रियासत जम्मू -कश्मीर को 90 की दहाई तक महरुम रखा गया, आज भी

उसकी रिपोर्ट के कुछ अल्फाज़ मुझे याद हैं। इन्होंने 90 की दहाई में रिपोर्ट दे दी थी कि रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर के साथ जो नाइंसाफियां हैं, उनको दूर किया जाना चाहिए। बाकी स्पेशल केटेगरी स्टेट्स को तो 90 और 10 के फार्मूले के तहत grant और इम्दाद मन्जूर की जाती है, इम्दाद के तौर पर दी जाती है, लेकिन जम्मू-कश्मीर के साथ ऐसा नहीं किया जाता, इन्होंने अपनी रिपोर्ट में वह सब दिया है। जम्मू-कश्मीर स्पेशल केटेगरी स्टेट्स में भी एक स्पेशल स्टेट है, लिहाज़ा इनके साथ की गई नाइंसाफियों का अज़ाला होना चाहिए। लेकिन, क्या किया जा रहा है। वादे तो किए जाते रहे - 90 की दहाई में भी वादे किए जाते रहे, उससे पहले भी वादे किए जाते रहे, उसके बाद भी कई ऐलानात होते रहे, लेकिन जब अमल-आवरी का वक्त आता है, जब इंसाफ देने का वक्त आता है, तब इंसाफ किया नहीं। अब इंडस वाटर ट्रीटी को ले लीजिए। एक मुआहिदा हुआ दो मुल्कों के दरम्यान। आलमी बैंक ने वह मुआहिदा करवाया, सिंधतास मुआहिदा जिसको कहते हैं। अपने मुल्क को दरियाई पानी मिल गया, सतलुज, व्यास, रावी और उस पानी से बड़े फवायद भी मिले, लेकिन जम्मू-कश्मीर के जो दरिया थे - चिनाब, जेहलम, सिंध, उस पानी को हमने पाकिस्तान को दे दिया उस मुआहिदे में रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर को इस पानी से जितने भी फवायद मिलने जा रहे थे, कोई डेम नहीं आप बना सके, इर्रिगेशन के लिए भी पानी को एक हद तक ही इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं क्योंकि उसकी सतह एक हद तक बरकरार रखनी है। आप पानी को ज़खीरा नहीं कर सकते, कोई बैराज नहीं बना सकते और जो लीन मंथ्स हैं, अक्तूबर से लेकर मार्च तक के महीनों में जो पानी कम हो जाता है, तो आपकी बिजली की पैदावार एक तिहाई रह जाती है, उसका कोई कम्पनसेशन आज तक रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर को नहीं दिया गया है। यह तो हमारे आबी हुकूक थे, मुल्क को तो फायदा हुआ, होना चाहिए था, हमें उस पर कोई एतराज़ नहीं है, लेकिन रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर के साथ जब इंसाफा देने का मामला था, कोई इंसाफ नहीं किया गया।

मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि अब वक्त आ गया है। मैं सुबह अपने वजीरे-दाखिला की तकरीर को सुन रहा था। जहां कहीं भी insurgency होगी, एक लंबे अर्से के लिए नाइंसाफियों को बोझ जब बढ़ जाता है, जब उस निज़ाम पर लोगों का ऐतबार खत्म हो जाता है, तब वे बंदूक हाथ में उठाते हैं, क्योंकि उनको ख्याल हो जाता है कि अब उनको इंसाफ मिलने वाला नहीं है। बाकी बातों के अलावा, इसका आम तौर पर जिक्र होता रहा है, यहां भी मेंबर्स करते रहे हैं, आपको भी मालूम है, हमें भी मालूम है, उस तरफ के लोगों को भी मालूम है और इस तरफ के लोगों को भी मालूम है, लेकिन अगर ये नाइंसाफियां आप दूर नहीं करेंगे, तो अहसासे महरूमी रियासत जम्मू-कश्मीर की अवाम में कैसे खत्म होगा। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : शफी साहब, अब आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : मुझे 2 मिनट और दे दीजिए, मैं एक-एक करके सिर्फ नुक्ते बयान कर रहा हूं।

श्री उपसभापति : आप सब्जैक्ट पर आइए ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : मैं बड़े अदब से कहना चाहूंगा कि आप 2 मिनट तो दे दीजिए। आप तो कम से कम इंसाफ कीजिए ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : मैंने पहले ही आपको इत्तिला दी थी कि वक्त की कमी है।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : कम से कम 2 मिनट तो दे दीजिए। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि वज़ीरे-आज़म ने नया जम्मू-कश्मीर बनाने का ऐलान किया हुआ है। नया जम्मू-कश्मीर तो तभी बनेगा, जब नए जम्मू-कश्मीर के साथ आप इंसाफ करेंगे। जो इस्तहसाल हुआ है माज़ी में, चाहे वह किसी भी वजह से रहा हो, उस इस्तहसाल का खात्मा करके उनको इंसाफ दिलाएंगे।

अभी नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स के लोगों ने भी जिक्र किया और पंजाब के लोगों ने भी जिक्र किया कि जो छोटी रियासतें हैं, आपने छठे पे कमीशन को लागू किया, तो इनमें स्पैशल कैटेगरी स्टेट है, इसमें नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की स्टेट्स भी हैं, हिमाचल भी है, जम्मू-कश्मीर भी है, हमको भी implement करना पड़ा, लेकिन इस 6th pay commission की वजह से इन रियासतों का माली खसारा बहुत बढ़ा। अगर आप खास इमदाद नहीं देंगे, तो यह मुताहम्मिल ही नहीं हो सकती हैं। या तो अगर आप इनको प्लान के लिए पैसा देंगे, उसको divert करके ये तनख्वाहों पर खर्च करेंगे, तो यह भी एक तरह की बेकायदगी होगी। मैंने पहले भी रियासतों के बारे में यह बात उठाई है, जब यहां वज़ीरे-खजाना की मीटिंग बुलाई गई थी। मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि इन रियासतों पर खास तवज्ज़ह दी जाए, खासकर जिन रियासतों के पास रिर्सोसेज़ मौजूद नहीं है। पहले ही वहां पर एक तरह की मुज़ाहमत मौजूद है, मिलिटेंसी मौजूद है और अब अगर मुलाज़िमों में भी बेचैनी का एक सुर पैदा हो जाएगा, अगर आप उनको ये तनख्वाहें देने के लिए तैयार ही नहीं होंगे या हमारे पास वसायल ही नहीं होंगे, तो इंसाफ कैसे हो पाएगा? इसलिए मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि इस तरह भी खास तवज्ज़ह दी जाए। एक नुक्ता और कहने दीजिए, आप जो इंसाफ कीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आप हमारे साथ इंसाफ नहीं कर रहे हैं, आपको 5 मिनट दिए गए थे और आप खत्म नहीं कर रहे हैं।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : उपसभापति जी, एक बात और कहने दीजिए और वह है unemployment का मसला। 5 लाख से ज्यादा ग्रेजुएट, इंजीनियर्स agricultural graduates, agricultural post-graduates हमारी रियासत में इस वक्त बेकार पड़े हैं। 5 लाख से ज्यादा लोग बेकार हैं। उनमें बेचैनी है, नाराज़गी है। इससे alienation बढ़ रहा है। मेरा यह फर्ज बनता है कि मैं ये तमाम बातें इस हाउस के सामने रखूं। Unemployement को tackle करने का मसला बाकी स्टेट्स का भी हो सकता है, नॉर्थ-ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स का भी हो सकता है, लेकिन हमारा यह मसला निहायत ही संगीन मसला है। अगर आप इस मसले की तरफ तवज्जह नहीं देंगे, अगर आप इस मसले को हल करने में हमारी मदद नहीं करेंगे, तो हालात ठीक नहीं रह सकते हैं। मैं इस ऐवान में बड़ी जिम्मेदारी के साथ कह सकता हूं कि मैं लंबे अर्से के लिए हुकूमत में भी रहा हूं और ऐवान में भी रहा हूं। इसलिए यह बात मैं पूरी जिम्मेदारी के साथ कह सकता हूं। इसलिए वजीरे-खजाना से मेरी यह गुजारिश होगी कि वे इस ओर ध्यान दें। होना तो यह चाहिए था कि इन सब स्टेट्स में जहां आप बाकी investments का जिक्र करते हैं, वहां अमन कायम करने के लिए, अमन के अमल में भी investment करना बहुत जरूरी था ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : अब मैं अगले स्पीकर को बुला रहा हूं, विमल जालान जी, आप बोलिए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : मेरी यह गुज़ारिश होगी कि unemployment को दूर करने के लिए एक special package जम्मू-कश्मीर की रियासत को दिया जाना चाहिए और इसको अमन के अमल में एक investment करार दिया जाना चाहिए।

बहरहाल, मैं और भी दो-तीन नुक्ते कहना चाहता था, लेकिन फिर किसी वक्त कहूंगा ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : आपको दूसरे मौके मिलेंगे, ऐसी बातें बोलने के लिए।

श्री मोहम्मद शफी : किसी और वक्त पर इन बातों पर हम गौर करेंगे। मेरी यह गुज़ारिश है कि जहां इतने मुश्किल हालात में आपने रियासत की इस मईशत को संभालने के लिए इतने इकदामात, इतने होस्लाअफ़ज़ा और इतनी हिम्मत से काम लिया है, वहां थोड़ी दरियादिली दिखाकर, हमारे साथ भी इंसाफ करें। शुक्रिया।

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب (جموں اور کشمیر) : عالی جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین صاحب، بجٹ پر تین روزہ بحث میں حزب اقتدار اور حزب اختلاف کے کئی ممبران نے حصہ لیا اور سرحاصل ہوا ان اسکیمس کے بارے میں، جو اسکیمیں جاری تھیں، یا جن کو آگے یہ شروع کرنے جا رہے ہیں۔ اس میں دورائے نہیں کہ بڑے مشکل عالمی حالات میں، معاشی لحاظ سے جو مشکل عالمی حالات تھے، اس کے باوجود بڑے اچھے ڈھنگ سے ملک کی معیشت کے انتظام کو سنبھالے رکھا ہے، اس کے لئے ہم وزیر خزانہ کو مبارکباد دیتے ہیں۔ ملک کی سطح پر ان پالیسیوں کا جو آپ نے یہاں بجٹ میں اعلان فرمایا ہے، سبھی لوگ ان کی سراہنا کرتے رہے ہیں، ہونی بھی چاہئے۔ لیکن اصل معاملہ تو ان پر عمل آوری کا ہے اور زمینی سطح پر نتائج دکھانے کا ہے۔ اگر زمینی سطح پر نتائج نہیں دکھائے جا سکے تو پھر جیسا کہ یہاں کئی لوگوں نے بتایا، یہ پیسہ جو غریب لوگوں پر خرچ ہونا ہے، دیہاتی دنیا کے سدھار ہونے پر خرچ ہونا ہے۔ یہ تو پھر ایک گماشتوں کی بڑی جماعت کی جیبوں میں چلا جائے گا اور غریب لوگوں تک، جن کے لئے یہ ساری اسکیمیں بنائی گئی ہیں، یہ بات پہنچ نہیں پائے گی۔ لہذا، وزیر خزانہ سے میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ وہ ہر ریاست کے چیف منسٹر کے ساتھ مل کر ان اسکیمس کی مانٹرنگ کا، بلاک سطح سے لیکر ریاستی سطح اور ملکی سطح تک ایک میکینزم جاری کریں اور لگاتار اس میکینزم کے ذریعے ان اسکیمس کی امپلی مینٹیشن مانیٹر ہو، تاکہ جو پلفریج ہو رہا ہے، جو سوداگری ہو رہی ہے، جو گماشتگری ہو رہی ہے، اس پر روک ہو سکے۔

یہاں نارتھ-ایسٹ کی ریاستوں کے کئی ممبران نے اپنی محرومیوں کا ذکر کیا۔ خوش قسمتی سے یہاں سے، ہمارے پاس میں ہی شری رنگ راجن جی بھی تشریف رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اسپیشل کٹیگری اسٹیٹس کے بارے میں جو رعایتیں دی جا رہی تھیں اور جن رعایتوں سے ریاست جموں کشمیر کو 90 کی دہائی تک

†[Translation in Urdu Script]

محروم رکھا گیا، آج بھی اس کی رپورٹ کے کچھ الفاظ یاد ہیں۔ انہوں نے 90 کی دہائی میں رپورٹ دے دی تھی کہ ریاست جموں اور کشمیر کے جو ساتھ ناانصافیاں ہیں، ان کو دور کیا جانا چاہئے باقی اسپیشل کٹیگری اسٹیٹس کا تو 90 اور 10 کے فارمولے کے تحت گرانٹ اور امداد منظور کی جاتی ہے، امداد کے طور پر دی جاتی ہے، لیکن جموں اور کشمیر کے ساتھ ایسا نہیں کیا جاتا، انہوں نے اپنی رپورٹ میں وہ سب دیا ہے۔ جموں اور کشمیر اسپیشل کٹیگری اسٹیٹس میں بھی ایک سوشل اسٹیٹ ہے، لہذا ان کے ساتھ کی گئی ناانصافیوں کا ازالہ ہونا چاہئے۔ لیکن، کیا کیا جا رہا ہے؟ وعدے تو کئے جاتے رہے۔ 90 کی دہائی میں بھی وعدے کئے جاتے رہے، اس سے پہلے بھی وعدے کئے جاتے رہے، اس کے بعد بھی کئی اعلانات ہوتے رہے، لیکن جب عمل آوری کا وقت آتا ہے، جب انصاف دینے کا وقت آتا ہے، تب انصاف کیا نہیں۔ اب انڈس واٹر ٹریٹی کو لے لیجئے۔ ایک معاہدہ ہوا دو ملکوں کے درمیان، عالمی بینک نے وہ معاہدہ کروایا، سندھ تاس معاہدہ جس کو کہتے ہیں۔ اپنے ملک کو دریائی پانی مل گیا، ستلج، وپاس، راوی اور اس پانی سے بڑے فوائد بھی ملے، لیکن جموں کشمیر کے جو دریا تھے۔ چناب، جہلم، سندھ اس پانی کو ہم نے پاکستان کو دے دیا اس معاہدے میں، ریاست جموں کشمیر کو اس پانی سے جتنے بھی فوائد ملنے جا رہے تھے، کوئی ڈیم نہیں آپ بنا سکے، اریگیشن کے لئے بھی پانی کو ایک حد تک ہی استعمال کر سکتے ہیں کیوں کہ اس کی سطح ایک حد تک برقرار رکھنی ہے۔ آپ پانی کو ذخیرہ نہیں کر سکتے، کوئی بیراج نہیں بنا سکتے اور جو لین منتھس ہیں، اکتوبر سے لے کر مارچ تک کے مہینوں میں جو پانی کم ہو جاتا ہے، تو آپ کی بجلی کی پیداوار ایک تہائی رہ جاتی ہے، اس کا کوئی کمپنسیشن آج تک ریاست جموں کشمیر کو نہیں دیا گیا ہے۔ یہ تو ہمارے آبی حقوق تھے، ملک کو تو فائدہ ہوا، ہونا چاہئے تھا، ہمیں اس پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہے، لیکن ریاست جموں کشمیر کے ساتھ جب انصاف دینے کا معاملہ تھا، کوئی انصاف نہیں کیا گیا۔ میری یہ

گزارش ہوگی کہ اب وقت آ گیا ہے۔ میں صبح اپنے وزیر داخلہ کی تقریر کو سن رہا تھا۔ جہاں کہیں بھی insurgency ہوگی، ایک لمبے عرصے کے لئے ناانصافیوں کا بوجھ جب بڑھ جاتا ہے، جب اس نظام پر لوگوں کا اعتبار ختم ہو جاتاہے، تک وہ بندوق ہاتھ میں اٹھاتے ہیں، کیوں کہ ان کو خیال ہو جاتا ہے کہ اب ان کو انصاف ملنے والا نہیں ہے۔ باقی باتوں کے علاوہ، اس کا عام طور پر ذکر ہوتا رہا ہے، یہاں بھی ممبرس کرتے رہے ہیں، آپ کو بھی معلوم ہے، ہمیں بھی معلوم ہے، اس طرف کے لوگوں کو بھی معلوم ہے اور اس طرف کے لوگوں کو بھی معلوم ہے، لیکن اگر یہ ناانصافیاں آپ دور نہیں کریں گے، تو احساس محرومی ریاست جموں کشمیر کی عوام میں کیسے ختم ہوگا...(مداخلت)....

شری اپ سبھا پتی: شفیع صاحب، اب آپ ختم کیجئے۔

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: مجھے 2 منٹ اور دے دیجئے، میں ایک ایک کرکے صرف نقطے بیان کر رہا ہوں۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی: آپ سبجیکٹ پر آئیے ...(مداخلت)...

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: میں بڑے ادب سے کہنا چاہوں گا کہ آپ 2 منٹ تو دے دیجئے۔ آپ تو کم سے کم انصاف کیجئے ...(مداخلت)...

شری اپ سبھا پتی: میں نے پہلے ہی آپ کو اطلاع دی تھی کہ وقت کی کمی ہے۔

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: کم سے کم 2 منٹ تو دے دیجئے۔ میں کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ وزیر اعظم نے نیا جموں کشمیر بنانے کا اعلان کیا ہوا ہے۔ نیا جموں کشمیر تو تبھی بنے گا، جب نئے جموں کشمیر کے ساتھ آپ انصاف کریں گے۔ جو استحصال ہوا ہے ماضی میں، چاہے وہ کسی بھی وجہ سے ہو رہا ہو، اس استحصال کا خاتمہ کرکے ان کو انصاف دلائیں گے۔

ابھی نارتھ ایسٹرن اسٹیٹس کے لوگوں نے بھی ذکر کیا اور پنجاب کے لوگوں نے بھی ذکر کیا کہ جو چھوٹی ریاستیں ہیں، آپ نے چھٹے پے کمیشن کو لاگو کیا، تو ان میں اسپیشل کٹیگری اسٹیٹ ہے، اس میں نارتھ ایسٹ کی اسٹیٹس بھی ہیں، ہماچل بھی ہے، جموں کشمیر بھی ہے، ہم کو بھی امپلی مینٹ کرنا پڑا، لیکن 6th Pay Commission کی وجہ سے ان ریاستوں کا مالی خسارہ بہت بڑھا۔ اگر آپ خاص امداد نہیں دیں گے، تو یہ متحمل ہی نہیں ہو سکتی ہے۔ یا تو اگر آپ ان کو پلان کے لئے پیسہ دیں گے، اس کو divert کرکے یہ تنخواہوں پر خرچ کریں گے، تو یہ بھی ایک طرح کی بےقاعدگی ہوگی۔ میں نے پہلے بھی ریاستوں کے بارے میں یہ بات اٹھائی ہے، جب یہاں وزیر خزانہ کی میٹنگ بلائی گئی تھی۔ میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ ان ریاستوں پر خاص توجہ دی جائے، خاص کر جن ریاستوں کے پاس رسورسز موجود نہیں ہیں۔ پہلے ہی وہاں پر ایک طرح کی مزاحمت موجود ہے، ملیٹینسی موجود ہے اور اب اگر ملازموں میں بھی بےچینی کا ایک سرپیدا ہو جائے گا، اگر آپ ان کو وہ تنخواہیں دینے کے لئے تیار ہی نہیں ہوں گے یا ہمارے پاس وسائل ہی نہیں ہوں گے، تو انصاف کیسے ہو پائے گا؟ اس لئے میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ اس طرف بھی خاص توجہ دی جائے۔ ایک نقطہ اور کہنے دیجئے، آپ تو انصاف کیجئے۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی: آپ ہمارے ساتھ انصاف نہیں کر رہے ہیں، آپ کو 5 منٹ دئے گئے تھے اور آپ ختم نہیں کر رہے ہیں۔

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: اپ سبھا پتی جی، ایک بات اور کہنے دیجئے اور وہ ہے unemployment کا مسئلہ۔ 5 لاکھ سے زیادہ گریجویٹ، انجینئرس، ایگریکلچر گریجویٹس، ایگریکلچر پوسٹ گریجویٹس ہماری ریاست میں اس وقت بیکار پڑے ہیں۔ 5 لاکھ سے زیادہ لوگ بیکار ہیں۔ ان میں بے چینی ہے، ناراضگی ہے۔ اس سے alienation بڑھ رہا ہے۔ میرا یہ فرض بنتا ہے کہ میں یہ تمام باتیں اس ہاؤس

کے سامنے رکھوں۔ Unemployment کو ٹیکل کرنے کا مسئلہ باقی اسٹیٹس کا بھی ہو سکتا ہے، نارتھ ایسٹرن اسٹیٹس کا بھی ہو سکتا ہے، لیکن ہمارا یہ مسئلہ نہایت ہی سنگین مسئلہ ہے۔ اگر آپ اس مسئلے کی طرف توجہ نہیں دیں گے، اگر آپ اس مسئلے کو حل کرنے میں ہماری مدد نہیں کریں گے، تو حالات ٹھیک نہیں رہ سکتے ہیں۔ میں اس ایوان میں بڑی ذمہ داری کے ساتھ کہہ سکتا ہوں۔ کہ میں لمبے عرصے کے لئے حکومت میں بھی رہا ہوں اور ایوان میں بھی رہا ہوں۔ اسلئے یہ بات میں پوری ذمہ داری کے ساتھ کہہ سکتا ہوں۔ اس لئے وزیر خزانہ سے میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ وہ اس اور دھیان دیں۔ ہونا تو یہ چاہئے تھا کہ ان سب اسٹیٹس میں جہاں آپ باقی انویسٹ مینٹ کا ذکر کرتے ہیں، وہاں امن قائم کرنے کے لئے، امن کے عمل میں بھی انویسٹمینٹ کرنا بہت ضروری تھا ۔(ضرورت)۔۔۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی: اب میں اگلے اسپیکر کو بلا رہا ہوں، ومل جالان جی، آپ بولئے۔

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: میری یہ گزارش ہوگی کہ unemployment کو دور کرنے کے لئے ایک اسپیشل پیکج جموں کشمیر کی ریاست کو دیا جانا چاہئے اور اس کو امن کے عمل میں ایک انویسٹمنیٹ قرار دیا جانا چاہئے۔

بہرحال، میں اور بھی دو تین نقطے کہنا چاہتا تھا، لیکن پھر کسی وقت کہوں گا ۔۔۔(مداخلت)۔۔۔

شری اپ سبھا پتی: آپ کو دوسرے موقعے ملیں گے، ایسی باتیں بولنے کے لئے۔

جناب محمد شفیع صاحب: کسی اور وقت پر ان باتوں پر ہم غور کریں گے۔ میری یہ گزارش ہے کہ جہاں اتنے مشکل حالات میں اپنے ریاست کی اس معیشت کو سنبھالنے کے لئے اتنے اقدامات، اتنے حوصلہ افزا اور اتنی ہمت سے کام لیا ہے، وہاں تھوڑی دریا دلی دکھا کر، ہمارے ساتھ بھی انصاف کریں۔ شکریہ۔

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bimal Jalan. The last one!

DR.-BIMAL JALAN (Nominated): Sir, I am most gratetul to you for giving me this opportunity to speak although I had yielded my portion of time to another distinguished Member of the House. Sir, I know, the time is very short. The Finance Minister himself is present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Your mike is off.

DR. BIMAL JALAN: Sir, I have just started by expressing my gratitude to the Chairman for giving me this opportunity although I did not have this time available to me. As it happens, Sir, this is also my last intervention on the Budget in this august House and in front of many political leaders. No doubt, in my professional capacity, I will be talking about the Budget later on but this is the last and great opportunity for me to speak. And also, I remember that I had the great privilege of working with the present Finance Minister, in an official capacity, when he presented all his earlier Budgets in the early eighties. So, Sir, this is a great opportunity, and I am grateful to you for giving me the time.

I know, Sir, the time is short, and so far as the present Budget is concerned, a lot has been said; a number of suggestions have been made and, by and large, I have no specific observation to add to what has already been said, both positive and some negative. But the vision, I would say, that the Budget holds out for the medium term is something that we can all aspire for, which is reduction in poverty and removing poverty by 2014, employment, growth of nine per cent, and so on and so forth. There is no doubt. And it also highlights some of the problems of resources, of delivery, and so on, which are excellently put, and irrespective of which side we belong to, either this side or that side, that all of us share, and some of them have pointed this out.

Sir, I want to confine myself, at this late stage, – and I do not want to take undue advantage of your graciousness – to, what you might call, 'overarching issues' in the Budget-making process as well as in our Annual Budgets that you present to the House, that we discuss in this House, and also in the other House.

Sir, the first issue, which has been highlighted in many of the interventions, is with regard to three financial, or, rather, three Budget-related questions. One is, of course, the fiscal deficit. The second is the capital expenditure not being as high as it should be, and, in fact, it is about the same level as compared to the past.

(MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair)

And the third issue which is also financial in nature, – at least, half of it is financial, some of it may not be financial – is with regard to delivery of services and how much it costs. Now, in my view, Sir, all these three questions – it may not be apparent to you, but – as I can say. They are inter-related. You take the fiscal deficit. I think that there is no difference of view, including that in the

Finance Minister's speech or in the Finance Ministry's document, that this level of fiscal deficit, is unsustainable, as Mr. Rangarajan put it. It is unsustainable; if it were not in the fiscal Budget which was presented by the Finance Minister, he would not have talked about reducing it from 6.8 to 5-4.2. So, that is one question that we have to grapple with.

The second issue relates to capital expenditure which is not increasing. That is another perennial issue with us. You can allocate money for capital expenditure, but we cannot spend it. This happened in the previous year; it keeps on happening. Whatever you allow for it, it will not be spent.

The third issue, Sir, is with regard to the public delivery system. I am, here, not quoting Mr. Rajiv Gandhi about 25 paise or 15 per cent, but the fact remains that according to the latest Planning Commission study, for a delivery of one rupee to the 'below poverty line' person under the targeted Public Distribution System, we spent Rs.3.35. So, you can see how these three issues are related. If we could save three rupees and thirty-five paisa or even rupees two in terms of waste in transferring funds in our poverty alleviation programmes, in our employment-generating programmes, if you could deliver credit or infrastructure investment, then the fiscal deficit will not be as high as it recurrently happens. How do you tackle all these three problems? Sir, I don't want to go into it. But, I think, we should take some lessons that this can't be done unless you make some fundamental reforms in the way in which we have done it in our Ministries. India is, probably, the only great democracy where you have Ministers or Ministries. On every issue of expenditure, whether it is capital, whether it is public delivery, whether it is fiscal deficit control, you find that there are 10 Ministries involved and you would find that there are three tiers. There is the Centre; there is the State; there is the district; and then there is the gram panchayat. The Centre blames the State and the State blames the Centre. All this costs money; all this creates fiscal deficit; all this delays the implementation of your highways and so on and so forth and all this delays the public delivery system.

On this first point, I would say, let us take a lesson from why our great country can provide free and fair elections for 670 million people on time. But it can't construct a power plant on time which a private sector can construct. It can't construct a highway on time which a private sector can construct. Why is it so? Under our Right to Information Act – we are very proud of it – you can ask a question and you are time-bound to give it to us. But you can't provide food on time. Why? Let us ask this question. The fundamental reason for this is that we don't have a structure which is at arms-length from the Ministries. The policies shall be decided by the Government or by the Ministry. But the delivery, like the elections done by the Election Commission, like the appointment of Civil Services done by the UPSC and not by the Home Ministry or the Department of Personnel, should be with the independent structure. The RTI is accountable to you. But it is done independently and

autonomously. I don't want to go into the details. If we want to take care of credit problem, if we want to take care of our capital expenditure, if we want to take care of our fiscal deficit, if we want to take care of our public delivery system, the central issue is that we should try and keep it at an arms-length from the Ministries. You have to turn the whole system upside down whereby your Five Year Plan should become one year plan. I will come to this a little later. But you should have one year target, one year plan, within a Five Year Plan and so on and it should be implemented annually and somebody should be responsible for that and that should be, perhaps, the Minister. You can take into account all the constraints. But let them be implemented. The entire power should be given to the National Highways Authority to build roads, the entire power to build power plants should be given to the power authority. Why should a country of 100 crore people, 1.2 billion people, depend on one person? All of us breathe a sigh of relief when the some were changed. Why? Why should construction of highways, construction of power plants, and provision of services depend on who the Minister happens to be. Even if you are elected with full majority, 100 per cent majority, you represent less than 0.2 per cent of the people. If you take the constituencies, 543 Members of one House, even you calculate 0.2 million, it is 0.12 per cent. Yet, he or she is the person whose performance, determines whether I will get my food or whether I will get my highways or whether I will get my bridges or whether I will get my power. This is the first issue.

The second issue directly relates to the Budget. If you take the last 20 years, 20 years ago India was a low-lying country. Every year we had a balance of payment problem or something. When you became the Finance Minister, I happened to be in the North Block at that time and, probably, I received you there. India had borrowed from the IMF and we were trying to make our balance of payments met. We were all under debt and received aid from World Aid India Consortium and so on and so forth. Every year the concentration was on the management of the debt problem. Today we are talking that India and China are the fastest growing countries. So, India has changed. India has risen. Our people have become better and our opportunities have become great and for that we can take enormous credit. But what has not changed is the budget-making practice. Why should we be changing tax rates every year, from 10 to 12 or 12 to 10 or something from here and something from there? My suggestion to the hon. Finance Minister is, have only one budget, that is, Budget Part-1. Next year, let us reform, as he has reformed some of the taxes, given up some of the taxes, our tax system. In 2010, let us announce that this is the five-year plan, rather this is my five-year tax system and that there will be no change in it, that this is stability with continuity of which we are very proud. Let us have stability with continuity in our tax structure. What the budget should do is, it should talk about what we have done annually, what the challenges are, what the opportunities are about which he has talked at great length, in a very decent and excellent way that this is what we should be discussing; the expenditure priorities, the Plan priorities, the ability to deliver and so on and there will

be no change in any tax rate. It should be announced in advance. Maybe, this would not attract headlines; maybe, this would not attract 24-hour TV interviews. But it is worth doing for the sake of our country that we can discuss the big things and not the small matters like what has changed from 9 to 10, what has changed from 10 to 12, or what has changed from 12 to 15 and something has changed from 15 to 12.

With these words, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House in front of several political leaders who will be leading our country for, at least, the next decade or two. I hope that next year's budget would set the pattern for the next 20 years – what was set in 1984 was up to now – and we should be able do it till 2025. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is my privilege to have an opportunity of responding to the various observations made by the hon. Members and my colleagues belonging to this House. I could not remain physically present in this House to listen to the speeches of all the Members, but I could listen to as much as possible while disposing of my duty in the other part of the building, in my room. At least, I could listen to Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Spokesperson of the principal Opposition Party, who spoke at length for almost an hour. I should have listened to others, but it was difficult because of the time constraint which we had. I have gone through the observations, the copious notes taken down by my collaborators and colleagues. I deeply appreciate the observations made by the hon. Members and analysed proposals from different sectors. Yes, there is criticism, there is divergence of view, but there is nothing wrong in it. I did not find a single criticism from any hon. Member with a motive or with an anxiety to criticise for the sake of criticism. Everybody has tried to appreciate in the context of his anxiety to address the broad national issues and wherever they have found that there are shortcomings, naturally, they are expected to bring the attention of the Government, of the House and of the people to those aspects. Therefore, if somebody asks me or authorises me to characterise the debate in this House and in that House, I would say, it was constructive, and each and every observation reflect the ardent patriotic, national spirit of all the participants to improve the lot of the country. They have spoken with this spirit, and I have taken their observations in that spirit. It is the collective approach through which we can address the problems of this country. When I presented the Budget, I was fully aware of, and conscious of the very difficult situation under which I was asked to make this task, to present this Budget: In the Interim Budget, which I presented, I expressed my observations by saying that certain parameters which I laid down-from (a) to (k), the eleven objectives that I laid down, which the next Finance Minister was to follow – to improve the condition of economy, naturally, I had to see how best I could do to implement the prescriptions that I prescribed a few months ago, and that got reflected in the various Budget proposals. At the same time, I knew that I am not presenting the

Budget of the full 12 months, starting from 1st April to 31st March. It is fragmented; for the first two months in the Interim Budget and for the remaining period in this Budget. Naturally, there had to be a lot of coordination. And, I must frankly admit that it was not a very easy decision for me to face a situation where the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit would go to such an extent by bursting the FRBM. I have no doubt that after the legislations, both the Central Government and the State Governments have been able to consolidate the fiscal position, and the fiscal discipline has been restored to a considerable extent because of sincere efforts made by the State Governments and the Central Government. I compliment all my colleagues in the States and in the Centre who have been able to more or less adhere to the target of the FRBM. But, still, I had to cross this. Why? It is because I had to decide what the option left to us was, whether I would mechanically adhere to the FRBM target and do not provide adequate resources for the development to generate a demand. Exports are going down for the consecutive nine months, starting from October. As for the manufacturing sector, I will come a little later. We have provided certain stimulus, practically, four stimulus packages. The first one was in December, 2008; then, in January, 2009, the third was on 24th February, 2009, when I finally got the approval of the Interim Budget in the Lok Sabha. And the fourth one, which I have provided in this Budget. In absolute terms, the first fiscal stimulus amounted to Rs.1,86,000 crores.

And the fourth one will also add additional sums of Rs. 35-36,000 crores and will lead to almost Rs. 2,18,000 crores. It has started yielding results but I must say it is slow. It is visible but it is slow; nevertheless it has started yielding results. For instance, production by major steel producers registered a growth of 13 per cent in June, 2009; cement production increased by 13.1 per cent in June, 2009. I am talking of May-June figures only pertaining to this fiscal year and on a comparative basis with year-to-year figures during the same period. Sales of automobile sector including two-wheelers rose by 17.4 per cent in June and, taken together, it is 14.3 per cent; consumer goods continued to record a double digit growth at 12.4 per cent in May, 2009 over the corresponding period of the previous year. The number of mobile phone connections – and a mobile phone nowadays is no longer a luxury item; even villagers have them; and it has improved our communication network substantially- increased by 49 per cent and, approximately, twelve million mobile connections were added during the month of June. These are small beginnings. But nonetheless, these are beginnings and, if we continue, the situation would improve. But the basic question remains that why I should have done this; while presenting the Budget; I thought what is required right now is to achieve a higher growth path in the shortest possible time, as fast as possible. And, I firmly believe, Mr. Chairman Sir, because we could achieve this growth from 2003-04 to 2007-08, in these five years, including one year of the NDA regime, an average of 8.6 per cent and because of 9 per cent growth in three consecutive years, ending in 2007-08, added muscles

enormously to our economy by improving the tax-GDP ratio to the level of 11 plus percentage from a level of 8 plus percentage. That could ensure the capacity of the Government to deliver goods to the needy people at the time of their need. I would like to most respectfully and humbly say that, as Leader of this House, I had the privilege of presenting three consecutive Budgets in 1982, 1983 and 1984, and I think the present Leader of the Opposition has become the Leader of the Opposition of the House of Elders at an age younger to the one at which I became the Leader of this House in 1980. I congratulate him and it clearly demonstrates how the country's future is more and more passing into the able hands of the younger generation. I could not think of at that point of time that a day would come when the Indian Government would be able to take a decision by providing relief to 3.51 crores of poor farmers who are indebted by resorting to the debt waiver scheme to the tune of Rs. 65,000 crores of rupees. It was possible because at that point of time we had the capacity to do so.

As we had the capacity to introduce a legal guarantee for providing job on the demand basis to every unemployed rural youth in all the districts of India, of course, not by one go, but in phases, starting from 2006, it was possible. Therefore, for growth, from where the resources would come? Surely, external resources would not come. What has happened, when Mr. Venkaiah Naidu was making his observations, yesterday, he said, yes, reforms, liberalised economy, correct fiscal and monetary policy, sound economic fundamentals attract capital from outside. But, that is in a normal situation, not in an extraordinary situation like this when the impact of world financial crisis and meltdown felt from the month of September onwards, what happened, a knowledgeable Member like him is fully aware of it. So, we had to depend on generating internal demand in the quickest possible time and to get the resources to make investment in those sectors where the demand generation can be hastened quickly to come back to that path, as fast as possible. And, exactly, I did so. I mentioned in my Budget Speech; I mentioned in a number of my interactions after presenting the Budget through media persons and even in my reply in the other House yesterday, I mentioned that this level of fiscal deficit is unsustainable, it cannot be maintained. But, how quickly we can come back? And I have also indicated in my Budget Speech that yes, we should come back. We should come back, as fast as possible. I have given a target, from 6.8 per cent to 5.5 per cent in 2010-11, and from 5.8 per cent to 4 per cent in 2011-12. I would have been happy, if I could fix the target at 3 per cent for the year 2011-12, but I did not want to take too ambitious great leap. As Mr. Venkaiah Naidu correctly pointed out that when it has taken years to come down from 5.3, 5.6, 6 per cent to 3 per cent, how do you expect that after a year, you will be able to reduce it by 1.5 per cent and after another year, by another 1.5 per cent or 2 per cent? It is because, this year, I had to undergo certain extraordinary expenditure. I had to make some provisions for some extraordinary large expenditure, which may not be necessary every year. Take the case of Plan. All of you are knowledgeable

Members, everyone of you know it fully well, when we have the Five Year Plan, we try to reach the target, and if luck favours in real term, or even, at least, in the nominal term, over a period of five years, that is 100 per cent step up over a period of five years, average 20 per cent. This year, I had to step up the developmental outlay, both in the Interim Budget, and after the Interim Budget, during the full Budget, from Rs.2,43,000 crores at BE to Rs.3,25,000 crores. Straightaway, a step up of Rs.82,000 crores! In terms of percentage, it is almost 33 per cent! It cannot be expected that every year, the Finance Minister will step up the Plan allocation by 33 per cent. Then, there would be no need of a Five-Year Plan and we can complete the Five-Year Plan in three years. But, this particular time, the present level of the economic situation demanded that level of extraordinary expenditure.

We had to implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission, and Sixth Pay Commission arrears this year. Surely, every year, the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission does not come. It comes at the interval of every ten years or so. So, certain big ticket expenditure I had to incur this year in a situation where our revenues are going down because of the sliding exports, because of the slow growth or negative growth in manufacturing sectors and in other sectors. The excise duty collection has come down, the customs duty collection has come down. All these figures are available in the Budget document, I need not repeat them. But, in direct taxes, the rate ot growth has come down, no doubt; but, in absolute terms, not. Therefore, I thought, let me resort to higher fiscal deficit. If it is possible to come back to the higher growth trajectory as fast as possible – perhaps, it would be possible for us to meet the fiscal target as soon as we can do.

One question and very relevant question comes. With such a heavy dosage of borrowing, would the Government not crowd out the private sector for further fresh investment from the market? This question is very legitimate and apprehensions have been expressed in the trade circle, industry circle; and, I responded to it by saying that the Reserve Bank of India has managed the Government's borrowing burden very efficiently in the past year and it would be possible for them to do so this year also. Here, serious concerns have been voiced on the implications of the Government's borrowing programme, 'undermining the cost and the availability of funds for the recovery, in growth, in the private sector investment. The net market borrowing requirement for 2009-10, through Government of India debt securities works out to Rs.3,97,957 crores. The actual net borrowing through the Government security in 2008-09 was Rs. 2,21,472 crores. Notwithstanding the increased borrowing in the current year, the cost of borrowing has been significantly lower so far. During the first half of 2009-10, the Government market borrowing of Rs. 2,41,000 crores of debt security is being supported by the RBI through its open market operations, It has to be understood and I would like to emphasise because some misconceptions have been articulated. It has to be understood that open market operations of RBI should not be confused with monetisation of the Government borrowings and that the Government has no intention of monetising its debt. This aspect, I thought, I should bring it to the notice of the hon. Members. The RBI has

taken several other steps to improve the liquidity in the market and availability of the finance for the private sector since mid September, 2006. It has cut the Repo Rate by 425 basis points and the Reverse Repo Rate by 275 basis points. The Cash Reserve Ratio has also been reduced by 400 basis points. Taking cues from earlier policy rates and easy liquidity conditions, all public sector banks have reduced their deposit and lending rates from time to time during this period. There is, therefore, no reason to be concerned about the private sector being crowded out because of the increased Government borrowings nor should one be unduly concerned about the increase in the nominal interest rates.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out another aspect. Mr. Venkaiah and some other hon. Members have also referred to it. It is about the reforms. Most respectfully I would like to submit that the Congress Party had introduced the process of reforms in early 90s, which is known as liberalised economic policy and the country went through a series of debates over the years. But, thereafter, every subsequent Government, whether it is formed by the NDA or even it is non-Congress, non-NDA Government in which Communist Party of India was also a participant between 1996-98 and, of course, after the NDA, including the UPA Government, followed the path of economic reform. Therefore, there is no question of diluting the process of economic reforms. But, at the same time, reform is not a *mantra* which is to be chanted every now-and-then. Reform is a continuing process and the Government of the day is engaged in carrying on the process to the logical conclusion as per its own judgment and assessment of the situation. The earlier Government did that. I am exactly doing the same. And, I believe, whichever Government comes, it will continue to do so. Yes, there may be some differences about the degree of certain actions taken at some point of time. There may be differences as to what action has to take, to what extent one should go and one should not go. Obviously, there could be debates, discussions and suggestions on them. Therefore, it is not correct. Most respectfully, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit, disinvestment is not the only indicator of reforms. It is a part of the Government's programmes. Therefore, if the Finance Minister has not come out in his Budget Speech with a list of public sector companies that this company will be disinvested to this extent and that company will be disinvested to that extent and if it not there or absent and if somebody believe that heaven has fallen, most respectfully, I would like to submit, I do not subscribe to that view.

This is an exercise, which is continuing. As I mentioned yesterday in the other House, as I mentioned in reply to the debate in the other House, in the morning, if you had allowed me to reply to the question which was relating to disinvestment, in this House itself, you would have got the answer. But the hon. Member, surely, has got his answer in the written form. This is a continuing exercise and policies have been clearly spelt out in the Government document pronounced by the

highest person in the Government in the Presidential Address. Each and every hon. Member of this House is aware that every word of the Presidential Address is drafted by the Cabinet. In the Address, which he or she delivers at the Joint Session of Parliament, there, it has been spelt out, in my Budget speech, I have spelt it out in a paragraph that we would like to encourage the people's participation. These have been created by the people's assets. And, surely, it will not be utilised merely for the consumption expenditure, throwing away the family silver to meet the luxury consumption or daily consumptions. Even for the fund created out of the disinvestment proceeds, you know well laid out schemes are there. It is for modernisation of the public sector enterprises; it is for meeting the requirements of their own needs; it is for upgradation of technology and modernisation. Therefore, these things are within the domain of public knowledge and part of the Government policy. That is why I felt that it was not that much necessary to spend that much time in respect of that. Now, it has been pointed out that we have not done enough for agriculture. Mr. Chairman, Sir, enough is always relative. Sir, we had Budgetary transactions of Rs. 2,00,000 crores or Rs.3,00,000 crores. If we had spent some money, it could have been in terms of percentage which is very high. But when the Government's budgetary transaction crosses Rs. 10,00,000 crores, even few thousand crores appear to be not so hefty increase. Sir, coming to agriculture, what we have done is this. You will have to appreciate that several measures are being taken, not merely through the Budgetary exercise but also through various other measures. What do the farmers of this country want? They want water; they want electricity; they want high-quality seeds; they want to be assured of the remunerative prices of their produce. As for all these aspects, most respectfully, Sir, I would like to submit that the UPA Government is aware of it. We did whatever we could in the first term and we are continuing to do so in this term also. Take the case of agricultural credit. The agricultural credit, even up to 2004-05 and 2005-06, was just Rs.85,000 crores. In 2008-09, it reached Rs.2,87,000 crores. This year, I have fixed the target of Rs.3,50,000 crores.

If you compare, surely, my distinguished colleagues will appreciate that it has been stepped up substantially. Regarding the remunerative prices which are being provided through the Minimum Support Price Mechanism, please look at the enhancement which has been given in the last five years and make a comparison between the previous five years and you will find that it has been increased substantially. Take two major grains, wheat and paddy. From Rs. 630 per quintal, it has been increased to Rs. 1080 per quintal so far as wheat is concerned. So far as paddy is concerned, it has been increased from Rs. 600 to Rs. 950 per quintal. Therefore, it is not correct to say so. It is so regarding all other agricultural commodities, and the practice nowadays-many of the colleagues who participated in this discussion were Ministers; they are fully aware of it–is that whatever recommendations the Agricultural Prices Commission and other appropriate technical bodies make,

on that basis we decide to enhance it. From their recommendations, there is hardly a case where we have reduced it and this mechanism will continue. But it has its own cost. It has its own cost and that cost is also to be borne by the economy. While making his observations, Mr. Venkaiah told that there is divergence between the WPI and CPI. It is absolutely correct. The Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index are not meeting. When the Wholesale Price Index comes to zero or negative, there is no sign of moderation of Consumer Price Index to that extent. It is not correct to say that all over the world everybody has accepted the Consumer Price Index. It is not that. More than 24-25 countries are having the WPI. Some other countries have single consumer price index. In India, we have four consumer price indices, One for the urban non-manual employee, one for the agricultural labour, one for the rural labour and the fourth one for industrial worker. The baskets of commodities and their weightage in all these indices vary and they vary very sharply. I will give you just one example that the food articles in WPI are just about 26 per cent. But food articles in most of the Consumer Price Indices, whether it is agricultural labour, whether it is rural labour or whether it is industrial workers or agricultural labourers, are more than 55 per cent. Therefore, the differences and the divergence of the index would be there. At some point of time, an attempt was made by the CSO to work out whether we can have, by converging all the four consumer price indices, one Consumer Price Index. An attempt was made but it did not meet with much success. Still the experts are working on it and the various interest groups and stakeholders are taken into confidence and they are working on it.

In addition to the debt waiver scheme which I have already announced, I have also announced in my Budget Speech that farmers can have short-term crop loans up to Rs. 3,00,000 at the rate of interest of seven per cent. This is being worked out to six per cent for those farmers who repay their loans on schedule. There is another problem, and it is a regional problem. It may also be there in some other areas. But this was part of an old scheme which was announced along with the debt waiver scheme. My predecessor and distinguished colleague, Mr. Chidambaram, had worked out that those farmers who repay 75 per cent of their total debt due will be provided one-time relief and they could avail of this opportunity up to 30th June, 2009. We received some representations and thereafter, I have decided to extend that debt up to 31st December, 2009; I have extended it by six months. Now, it is proposed to extend investment-linked tax incentives to the business of setting up, operating cold chain and warehousing facilities for storing agricultural produce. Under this method, all capital expenditure other than expenditure on land, goodwill and financial instruments will be fully allowed as deductions.

Some doubts have been raised about inadequacy of financial provisions for the agriculture sector and farmers in the Budget of 2009-10. It was mentioned by some hon. Members that it is only one per cent of the total expenditure of Rs. 10,20,838 crores. If we go into the details of the various expenditure proposals, hon. Members would notice that of our expenditure proposals, there were

three items over which nobody has any control. These are the committed liabilities; we will have to do it every year and we are doing it: on interest payments, on subsidies, on defence. If you take out these three big-ticket items, you will find that the expenditure is not one per cent but 24 per cent, almost one-fourth, of the total expenditure being budgeted for the various proposals related to agriculture.

In recent days, there have been some concerns about the progress of monsoon. As I have mentioned earlier, Government is monitoring the situation on a daily basis and is ready to implement its contingency plan. It is ready. Some Members have agitated; in the morning, in the other House, some Members wanted to have some discussions. Of course, this is not the appropriate forum for me to comment on. The Business Advisory Committee of both Houses will decide on it, and if they want to have discussions on drought taking the collective wisdom of the nation as a whole, which is represented in this House and the other House through elected representatives, including Chief Ministers of the States and other concerns, we can have them. We have the privilege of having an eminent agricultural scientist, Dr. Swaminathan, amidst us. His advice and the advice of other experts would definitely help us and they could give suggestions to us on how to overcome the crisis which may be impending. But, at the same time, I would not like to press the panic button. By pressing the panic button we do not get anything. If there is an adverse impact, there will be an adverse impact everywhere, on electricity generation, on availability of clean drinking water, and it would have a cascading adverse impact on many other things. But what do I gain by simply expressing that 'it is going to be a very serious situation? People may come out on the streets. There will be riots'. Yes, these are the consequences. These are the concomitants.

Any Government responsible and responsive to the needs of the people will have to address these issues in collaboration with others. That is the job. And exactly we are trying to do so. The fourth area of my concern is, and I have made adequate provisions for that, Mr. Chairman, Sir, infrastructure. I thought this sector requires more investment. I had the privilege of working with Dr. Jalan for umpteen number of years in the Ministry of Finance. In fact, in one way, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am fortunate and deeply indebted to some of the hon. Members belonging to this House with whom I had the opportunity of working in close cooperation in various sectors, particularly in the Government. I worked with Dr. Jalan, Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Shri N.K. Singh and host of others. Their very valuable suggestions on the Budget have enlightened us. They have given suggestions, which we will try to implement. Dr. Jalan has raised certain issues. My young colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, is a distinguished constitutional expert. My little knowledge of the Constitution tells me that taxation in this country is to be for one year. No tax can be levied and imposed as per article 365 of the Constitution except by the authority of law and law is passed by the Parliament. I do not know

whether by one go we can have the taxation for ten years. So far as my knowledge for the taxation proposal is concerned, even if you do not change the tax and even if you do not alter the rate, then too also you will have to bring a Finance Bill for the approval of the Lok Sabha, for the debate and discussion in this House, and thereafter, to return it to the other House. This is the constitutional requirement, and perhaps, we cannot do away with it. But his other suggestion is very valuable. Mr. N.K. Singh has also made a very valuable suggestion about establishing some independent agency to look into certain aspects where the Executive in its day-to-day function cannot adequately address them. Yes, in certain areas we saw our competence. People are coming from the same system. Those who conduct elections do not come from Moon or from other planet. Most of them are the civil servants of our system. But they can manage the largest functional democracy having more than 700 million voters to elect 543 elected representatives from 543 territorial constituencies. Therefore, it is naturally a legitimate question why the same people cannot construct a power plant in three years or four years having a capacity of 500 megawatts or construct 30 kilometres of road or 50 kilometres of road in the possible time. So, there is definitely a need and we were aware of it. The Prime Minister has appointed a Committee on Administrative Reforms under the present Law Minister, Shri M. Veerappa Moily. That Commission has made important recommendations which are under the active considerations of the Government and which will be taken care of. Certain other concerns have also been expressed and I am also concerned with those. But here the choice is very clear to me.

Yes, this is a high level of fiscal deficit. Some international rating agencies like Standard and Poor's, Moody's and others can think of downgrading the rating. But, the question is: what would be the first priority of the Indian Finance Minister - to take care of the Indian poor, or to adhere to satisfy the requirements of a rating agency like Standard and Poor's? This aspect has also to be kept in view. I do not pooh-pooh it. I am deeply concerned. My officers are in touch with them. But, please remember, if we say that it is an extraordinary situation, extraordinary situation does not demand normal, ordinary, routine solutions. It demands extraordinary solutions, extraordinary stakes. Ratings of as many as 34 countries, including U.K., have been downgraded by many such organisations. Many countries used to look at the fiscal deficit of India. Of course, we have come out of that situation. Dr. Jalan was referring to it. In 1982, I became the Finance Minister for the first time. Prior to that also, I was a Minister in the Government, but when I became Finance Minister for the first time and presented my first Budget, my primary concern was to reach the Plan target. We worked together; we worked closely in cooperation with each other, some of whom are sitting here. And, we found out that yes, the ingenuity of the country, the talent of the people of this country could find a way out. Many people, and perhaps, rightly so, pointed out that nobody had come out unhurt of the IMF building. One set of borrowing leads to another set of borrowing. To pay interest, you have to borrow more and you will ultimately fall in that debt trap. But, Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is part of history.

When in 1982, I was criticised for borrowing from the IMF, in 1984, the same Finance Minister could declare on the floor of the House that we had improved our balance of payments situation and we did not require the last instalment of $ 1.2 billion SDR, which we wanted to borrow through the extended funding facilities of IMF. We came out. We were not hurt. We did not come out on stretcher. We came out with our head on our shoulders and high enough. Therefore, I have belief, I have firm convictions that however deep the crisis may be, it would be possible for us to overcome the crisis. But, how? Not by engaging ourselves in endless argumentative manner – like Prof. Amartya Sen describes, 'argumentative Indian' – but, surely by collective and collaborative efforts. This House represents all the major political parties. Every economists says – Yes, some of them have expressed their doubts – whether it would be possible for us to introduce GSP from 1st of April, 2010. But, I do not find any reason if each and every section of the House feels that yes, it is worthwhile doing it, why the political establishment of the country, which is represented by this House collectively, cannot do it, and I must compliment the Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers who are closely working to achieve this targeted debt and to keep away the divergences and making serious efforts to bring convergence in their approach. And with their conviction and confidence, I feel confident that if the BJP's State Finance Ministers feel, if the Left's State Finance Ministers feel, if other parties' State Finance Ministers feel, or if they all feel, and if the hon. Members belonging to those parties in this House feel, then what will prevail? We will be able to do it. So, we can achieve and overcome this crisis; we can achieve the targets, the target of creating a situation where 'Food for All, 'Health for All', 'Education for All', would be available along with the democratic right, the fundamental, basic rights, to live as human beings, decent human beings, and, through the efforts, collaborative efforts, only through collaborative efforts, not engaging ourselves in an endless argumentative manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Mukherjee.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 1 totally agree with the hon. Finance Minister, on the last point he has made. Now that it is the first year, and also the beginning of his new term, he is giving us a lot of hope, and we only hope that the hope will become a reality! And I can assure him that the Opposition and, particularly, the BJP will not be seen wanting in any of the matters where they require our support if it is in the larger interests of the country. As he said 'I do not want to have any further argument', we proceed further.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as 'Left', we do not oppose the reforms per se, but what we want is that the reforms must be pro-people. That is the concern the Left has got. I hope, the Finance Minister appreciates the position of the Left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to move a motion for consideration, of the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009.

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GOVERNMENT BILL

The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amount spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 2007 in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I have small submission to make. Sir, this Appropriation Bill was laid yesterday, and it is being introduced just now by the Finance Minister. This is about the extra money spent during the financial year ended on 31st March, 2007. They could have brought it in 2008; they could have brought in February when they brought the interim Budget. So, what was the reason tor delay? I would appreciate if he can just explain it. We do not want to discuss this matter. Because it talks about the Ministry of Company Affairs expenditure, a small amount, the defence services, Army, and, then, the interest payment and repayment of debts, and the Ministry of Mines expenditure, I just want to have an explanation from him. That is all.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, with your permission, I would like to say that it is correct, and it has also been the practice, that during the presentation of the regular Budget, sometimes, we raise the supplementary demands for the approval of the hon. Members. Supplementary demands are anticipated as and when the Members come to know, when the various Ministerial colleagues demand from the Finance Ministers that some more money, additional allocation is to be given, it has been the practice of every Finance Minister, whether he sits this side – every Finance Minister will be sitting this side. Whether they sit that side or this side, they assure their Ministerial colleagues that they will bring it as 'the supplementary demands'. That is the supplementary demand. But, sometimes, it happens that whatever expenditure was assessed was processed, but, as per the parliamentary practice, it was intended that every expenditure is to be approved by the Parliament. So, how to regularise it? This is being regularised, when the GAG draws the attention of the Government to these excess payments. It is discussed in its report and it is mentioned in its report. It is taken into account. The CAG's recommendations go to the PAC and the PAC makes its recommendations and gives directions to regularise it and get the approval of the Parliament for these excess payments. This practice goes on every year. That is why, at the time of the